

# For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$12,609
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$14,818
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 223,157
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 237,055

### Our Ministers

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## WELCOME TO WEST SIDE!

For our visitors:

If you have any questions, if you want to get involved with our church, or if you just want to meet some of our leaders, please stop by the Starting Point kiosk in the lobby. We'd love to meet you and answer your questions. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

*West Side Church of Christ*  
2300 West "C" Street  
Russellville, AR 72801

*Office Information:*  
Phone: 479-968-1121  
Email: office@westsidear.org  
Jennifer's hours Mon-Thurs 9-3, Fri 9-12

## Sermon Notes



# WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday  
April 26, 2020

Nursery:

Kids For Christ:

2yr. olds -

3 & 4yr olds -

K-2nd grade -

Puppets:

Greeters:  
North -

West -

East -

Communion:  
Table 1 -

Table 2 -

## The Illusion of Control

by Tim Tripp

A Buddhist monk named Jack Kornfield once wrote, "Peace requires us to surrender our illusions of control." It's certain that we won't agree with all Buddhist teachings but this seems to ring true. It is easy for Americans to allow themselves to be lulled into a sense of being in control but that sense is in essence, an illusion. Every once in a while, that illusion is burned away like a morning fog, leaving us with the stark truth that we are not in control, not by a long shot.

In January and February of this year, we were cruising along like always. Making plans and confident that our plans would come to pass like they always have. We heard of this virus in China that seemed to be spreading like wildfire but continued life as usual in a mass denial that it would ever affect us. Then it spread to Italy and Europe. Then cases began to spring up on US shores in New York and Washington State. Only as cases began to spread to the interior of our country did it become clear that our lives would drastically change for a while. Social distancing became the mandate. Business travel and vacations were postponed. All professional and college sports were cancelled or rescheduled. Most stores were closed and restaurants went to a carry-out or delivery only policy. Concerts and large public gatherings were banned. Church services and meetings were suspended. Life as we knew it grinded to a halt.

Before, because we could choose when and where to go, we felt that we were in control of our lives. However, when the pandemic hit, it forced us to realize again that what we claimed as control was just a tentative set of choices that God gave to us but could easily be taken away. To put the words of the Buddhist monk another way it might be said, "If we form our peace around our ability to manipulate our environment to our liking, then our peace will leave when that context is taken away." Conversely, if we form our peace around the context of an inner confidence in God and surrender our illusion of control to him, then peace can remain regardless of the environment.

James put it this way, "Now listen you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

Two things are for sure. One is that control is an illusion. A man or woman can make plans and carry them out. Perhaps, the more wealth and privilege one has, the more he or she can move their will to fruition but God is in control. Sometimes he dramatically reminds everyone of that truth.

Second is that our time, our resources and our very lives are not our own. A disciple of Jesus should recognize this truth and daily commit themselves to advancing the cause of HIS kingdom in the world. Disciples will remember that Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me," (Luke 9:23).

When things get back to a new normal, lets all commit to surrendering our illusion of control and re-commit ourselves to doing God's will in this world, taking up our crosses and following Jesus.

### Dios Le Bendiga! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Hello Family of the Faith! My West Side Family!  
My thoughts and prayers are that all of you are doing well during this time of Pandemic that is still going on. I pray that all of us will be blessed with health, family and what we all need for our daily life. So far, we are in our 2nd month of staying at home (those who can, because some have to go to work) but for students and parents-some of them- has been a challenge to be together for this long in the house. It's on these types of times when we see the other side of the "coin" because things that we don't put attention or don't seem important or we never think about it, now we can see it and appreciate either for the first time or more than we did before. And the perfect example is being together, worshiping together in a physical presence in one place. I can say that we all can agree on this: we miss going to our church building to see each other, to worship God, sing to God, pray to God and to have fellowship with God and with each other. We do really miss all that! But the day is coming when we will do that again, and what a joy that will be!! Now, imagine when we all get to Heaven?? What a day of rejoicing that will be, when we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!!! And that day, my West Side family, is coming soon, morning or night or noon... are we ready?? Blessings to you my West Side family.

Children's Ministry Grades K - 5 Meets Sunday at 9 AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.



Teaching Team Leaders:

- Holy Word Studios: Lee and Andrea Henson
- Noah's Arcade: Dale and Christina Brooks
- Museum: Brent and April Ruple
- Creator's Canvas: Hensons



Virtual Youth Group

Wednesdays at 7pm

YOUTH GROUP - ONLINE

Download Zoom app for your device

Link to the meeting will be sent out on Social Media and Remind text.

Hangout and talk

What's going on

Devotional

Prayer requests

Games and Giveaways

Hey Students!!

In accordance with the current plan of action regarding the spread of COVID-19 and in a desire to stand with our university, we have suspended all physical gatherings and have closed the facility to the public until further notice.

Please be sure to join us on Wednesdays at 7PM for our MidweekLIVE Zoom meetings!

Be sure to stay connected and follow us on Social Media!

## Adult Bible Classes

**Sunday Morning:** *When we are able to meet again :*

- Room 2: : Janelle Rotation | Minor Prophets
- Room 3: Tripp Rotation | Spiritual Formation
- FC Classroom: Clements Rotation | The Mission of Jesus
- Rock: Clem Rotation | Sermon on the Mount

**Wednesday Night:** *When we are able to meet again :*

- Room 3: Covenants
- FC Classroom: A Joyful Journey Ladies Class

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

During this COVID-19 Crisis,

All

Physical gatherings at the building will be suspended indefinitely and we will continue with our virtual services. Please join us online Sunday mornings at 10am as well as Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Visit the West Side Church of Christ Facebook Page to join in our live stream events.

### *Virtual Wedding Shower*

**Please join us in celebrating the upcoming wedding of Gabby Abbott and Dillon Green with our first ever 'West Side Virtual Wedding Shower'!**

Gabby and Dillon are registered at Millyn's, Target, Walmart, and Amazon.

Please send all gifts to

2104 W. 5th Street

Russellville, AR 72801 by May 20th.

*Thank you in advance for helping make this unusal time one still filled with love and blessings!*

## Gathering Times

*These meeting times are currently suspended*

SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM Bible Class
- 9:00 AM Clase en Español
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:00 AM Adoración
- 5:00 PM Share Groups/ various times and locations

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 PM
- 6:30 PM Clase en Español
- 7:00 PM Midweek @ CCSC

## Family Illness and Recovery

Jim Bob Humphrey had surgery this week to remove the external fixator from his leg. If his healing continues and his leg strengthens with walking then no further action will be required. Please continue to pray that he will daily gain strength and will be pain free and mobile soon.

### **Ongoing Concerns:**

Mary Grice - cancer has continued to slowly progress during this most recent treatment. Please continue to pray for her to have effective treatment and complete healing.

Clay Reed is currently undergoing radiation therapy. He will have treatments Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week. Please continue to pray for his overall health and strength during this process, as well as total healing.

Richard Humphreys is needing rides 3 days a week to Conway for wound therapy. If you can help in this effort please contact Richard and Ann.

## RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

West Side Church of Christ has partnered with Paul Senn of River Valley Christian Counseling to provide high quality, affordable, Christian counseling. Hourly fees are based on the client's income and services will be provided regardless of the income/insurance situation of the client.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Senn at 479-219-3019 or rvccounseling@gmail.com.

You may also visit [www.westsidear.org/rvcc](http://www.westsidear.org/rvcc) for more information.

### Homebound / Nursing Homes

Wanda Bailey - Home

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale 101

Glennette Price - Stella Manor 305

Inez Selby - Stella Manor 315

Don Todd - Russellville Nursing Center - 317

### Expectant Mothers

Brooke Strasser

Carlee Schmitt

Kaitlin McCormick

### Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Joseph Roberds

Carson Curtis

### Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

## A Look Ahead...

***"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold that you have set up."***

**Daniel 3: 17-18**